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THE SOFAS.

The Sofas, whose ranks led to the disastrous Anglo-French collision in the Niger region, are curiously mixed people. When their long, sinewy, compact bodies, the young and strong, are incorporated in his forces, the weakly being sold, so gradually all the negro races of the Sudan are represented in his bands. The Sofas' heads are partially shaved, leaving two or three very long tufts of hair. They wear a jacket and very short trousers, iron rings on the arms and sturdy bracelets—grizzies—as ornaments. They are regular black brigands, active, scaly and bold. The chiefs get themselves up in theatrical brigand style, and all wear spurs fastened to their bare feet. They are splendid horsemen and deck out their steeds gayly with broadcloth and bangles.

An Uninvited Invitation.

An invitation to dinner in Japan commences as follows: "I beg pardon for thus troubling you in begging your company at my house to dinner. The house is small and very dirty. Our habits are rude, and you may not get anything to eat, and yet I hope that you will condescend to be present with us at 6 o'clock."

What May Be Faith?

"What do you mean by faith?" was the question. "Please, sir, when you believe anything, you are quite certain it is not true," was the prompt answer an Indian boy gave me. But the story on this subject I delight to most was that of the little boy who asked his mother what faith was, and received from her what was really that faith was believing in something you did not let her know who told you by a person whom you could trust. "For instance," he continued, "if I told you there was a chair in that corner, you would have to believe it, though you could not see it."

"Yes, mother, but should I be bound to sit in it?" It would be curious to discover how many people do really think that faith is believing something that they know is not true.—Signer.

Paris Imitating London.

A correspondent says that the craze for everything English is taking all the color out of Paris. It would not matter if they went in for decent imitation, but as it is they bring French ideas to bear on English customs, and the thing doesn't work. Driven from the restaurants on the grand boulevards, where underdone "softish," overdone "tartif" and fish without sauce are considered the correct thing, because it is believed that they are the staple food of the English, I went up into the quiet old Palais Royal for peace, and the waiter whispered, with a glad smile, that they had some fine gin and suggested stout after the coffee. By the way, I am told that the French firmly believe that stout should be served as a liqueur."

Storage Batteries for Telegraphy.

Storage batteries have been in use for some time at telegraph stations abroad, and steps have recently been taken in this country to adopt them for telegraphy.

AT FASHION'S SHRINE.

THE PUZZLED IRISHMEN AND THE UP TO DATE GIRL.

A Symphony of Spring Pictures—Two New Gowns for Grand Functions—The Wonders and Enigmas of Style—Pleasanton Taffetas and Linings.

[Special Correspondent.]
NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—Like cobwebs over hills, like the shadow of ferns thrown by moonlight on the still waters, like the tracery of frost on the windows, are the sheer and fine lawn that we now display for summer wear. How fine they are and how delicate the tracery.

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